

Through clubs that specialize in things like fishing, small animals, reptiles, horses, sewing, robotics, the program enriches many aspects of learning.

Research has shown that young people in 4-H are almost four times as likely to engage in STEM programs during the school year, thanks to what they explore and learn during their time in the program.

The four H's stands for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health, and it is clear that Cape May County 4-H has been deepening these young people's skills in all of these areas.

To all the participants, workers, volunteers, and especially Linda Horner of Cape May County's 4-H Foundation and Fairgrounds, congratulations on 50 years, for sure.

You are helping youth become confident, mature adults ready to take on the world. And you are making South Jersey proud.

RECOGNIZING LAURA ANDERSON

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Laura Anderson, who retired from her broadcasting post with WTKS in Savannah on September 6.

Originally from South Carolina, Ms. Anderson came to the First Congressional District of Georgia after her college graduation for love, life, and work.

For life, it was our large green spaces and easygoing people in our area. The love portion included her marriage and becoming a mother. But her work is what nearly everyone in Savannah has woken up to for the past 21 years.

Ms. Anderson hosted the Savannah News Now radio program on WTKS, along with her morning costar, Mr. Bill Edwards. With high-quality news, the program has become one of the most trusted in the Savannah area, interviewing countless community leaders, and giving commuters important daily updates.

Now, she is leaving the air to spend more time with her family.

Madam Speaker, I wish Laura the best of luck in her future endeavors. Laura will be missed on the air every morning.

DEVASTATING FIRES AFFECTING THE WEST

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, during our August recess, we had a very successful trip to the Tahoe area looking at some of the work that has been done following the Angora Fire some years ago for recovering our forested areas and doing the types of thinning and management that needs to be done to make our areas much more fire-safe and sustainable into the future.

This has been a very successful and bipartisan effort. Senator FEINSTEIN, as well as our local Members of the House, had support of this work. And we are at that time of year again—devastating fires affecting the West, affecting my own district in California right now. The one known as the Walker fire is burning our national forest in Plumas County—people are being displaced, having to desperately move their cattle out of the area.

And a lot of good work is being done. A lot of dozers are up there, a lot of aircraft are going. But why do we have to do this year after year after year? We should be managing our assets—the people's assets—our national forest—in a way that makes it fire-safe, it makes the habitat safe for the wildlife that is there. And later on, all the negative effects you have from all the ash and all the things that get into the streams, you have negative water quality. We need to be much more proactive.

Madam Speaker, there are 44,000 acres burning in my district right now, just on that one Walker fire and the fear people have to put up with, and the loss of wildlife.

We have to do much more. We need the Forest Service to be empowered with the tools to get this work done.

□ 1945

400TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST ENSLAVED AFRICANS BROUGHT TO AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on my Special Order for tonight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I am honored tonight to share and conduct the Special Order sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus, and I want to thank Chairwoman KAREN BASS for her tremendous leadership of the Congressional Black Caucus and for holding this Special Order tonight in our effort to raise to the public and this body's attention the observance of 400 years since the first enslaved Africans were brought to the shores of America, which began 250 years of one of the most horrific crimes committed against humanity: the government-sanctioned institution of slavery.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Chairwoman BASS) for her statement, and I

want to say to her that I really commend her tonight for her leadership and, really, for keeping Africa as central in our foreign policy, because we are all reminded, through her leadership, that Africa does matter.

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, along with my fellow CBC colleagues, I am pleased to join Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT, and Congresswoman ALMA ADAMS for this CBC Special Order hour. Tonight, my colleagues and I will take the time to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first enslaved Africans arriving in the United States.

The transatlantic slave trade was the largest coerced migration of human beings in the history of the world. An estimated 10 to 12 million enslaved Africans were transported across the Atlantic Ocean between the 16th and 19th centuries.

The brutality, murder, rape, disease, and starvation were so high that some historians assess that around 15 to 25 percent of the enslaved Africans died aboard slave ships.

Slavery in the United States officially lasted from 1619 to 1865, or 246 years. Enslaved Africans worked 10 or more hours a day, in dangerous conditions, and also worked 18-hour days in peak cotton-picking and sugar harvest season.

The average lifespan of enslaved Africans who labored on sugar and rice plantations was only 7 years. Violence on the plantations was always a danger and threat to the lives of enslaved human beings.

Wealth from the enslaved Africans and their labor established global capitalism and set the economic foundation for Europe, the Caribbean, and the Americas.

According to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, by 1860, 4 million enslaved people produced well over 60 percent of the Nation's wealth, and the slave trade valued them at \$2.7 billion. The financial legacy of the slave trade contributed to the creation of nation-states such as France, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, Great Britain, South America, the Caribbean, as well as the United States.

One of the contemporary myths that too many Americans believe is that only the South gained from slavery. However, both the southern and northern economies of the United States profited from slavery. For example, in Manhattan, enslaved Black men accounted for one third of the labor force by 1740.

During Reconstruction, former enslaved Africans made some progress: The first Black Members of Congress were elected to the House and the Senate. Nevertheless, Black Members of Congress were still not allowed to eat in the same cafeteria as their White colleagues and were segregated, overall, in the institution.

And this went on for many years. There was a period in which there were

no African Americans in Congress at all because they were run out.

Black Codes adopted under Reconstruction in the South and some areas of the North restricted freed Blacks from equal political rights, access to quality education, and jobs. For example, the State of Mississippi enacted a Black Code law to arrest free African Americans who were unemployed and lacked permanent housing. They could be arrested and bound out for a term of labor if unable to pay the fine, which means they were just reenslaved, and they used the criminal justice system to reenslave people.

When Reconstruction ended in 1877, the majority of African Americans lived in the Southern States; however, the southerners used their power in State and local governments to pass new laws, Jim Crow laws. Some people refer to this as U.S. apartheid.

As a matter of fact, when White South Africans were setting up the apartheid system in the early part of the 20th century, they traveled to the southern part of the United States to learn what we did so they could replicate it.

The civil rights movement was born out of the need to resist second-class citizenship and to demand that America deliver on the promises in the U.S. Constitution.

The 1964 Civil Rights Act granted the Federal Government a new role in desegregating schools and other public facilities. The progress that was made and the legislation that was eventually passed in the U.S. Congress was made because of a massive grassroots movement that we have come to know as the civil rights movement.

Many laws were passed that allowed for equality or access to education. But, as soon as those laws were passed, unfortunately, they were challenged in the Supreme Court.

So, as we remember and honor the 400th anniversary of all the enslaved Africans' arrival in America, we must never forget the tragedies, successes, and contributions that all of them made, and that African Americans are a part of the very fabric of America and have made significant contributions in every major field.

Oftentimes, we tell the glorious history of the United States, but, at some point in time, we will embrace all of the history of the United States and not just focus on the parts that make us all feel good.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairwoman BASS for laying out much of the history and reminding us that this is really an opportunity to recognize the resilience, the renewal, and the strength of Africans and African Americans. Through much adversity, as the gentlewoman laid out, African Americans, the descendants of enslaved people, continued to rise from our brutal past.

I thank the gentlewoman again for her leadership.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT),

chairman of our Committee on Education and Labor, who has led so many efforts to educate the public with regard to this 400th year commemoration and, also, the real significance of the Middle Passage as it relates to not only 400 years ago, but today.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share some reflections on events commemorating the first arrival of enslaved Africans to English colonies, to North America, including a forum my colleague, Representative DONALD MCEACHIN, hosted in Richmond earlier this summer and the events that took place on Fort Monroe National Monument last month.

It was my great honor, along with Representative LURIA, to welcome Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman KAREN BASS and fellow CBC member LACY CLAY to Hampton Roads for the solemn occasion marking the 400th anniversary of the first landing of enslaved Africans to English-speaking North America.

The history of our Nation cannot be fully understood or appreciated without knowing and acknowledging the stories of those first what they said was "20 and odd" Africans and the millions who followed them.

This was a goal that Senator KAINE and I had in mind when we drafted H.R. 1242, a bill to establish a Federal 400 Years of African-American History Commission. The goal of that commission was to explore ways to commemorate not just the events of 1619, but also to recognize all that has happened since.

The city of Hampton and the Commonwealth of Virginia did a tremendous job in organizing events, including those last month, to commemorate and reflect on what happened in 1619; but it is incumbent that we, as a body, support the ongoing and necessary work of that commission beyond 2019, as we committed to do when we passed H.R. 1242.

Senator KAINE and I are working with our colleagues in Congress to secure Federal funding to support the work of the commission, which is mandated under H.R. 1242 to plan programs to commemorate the history, recognize the resiliency of the African American community, acknowledge the impact that slavery and legalized racial discrimination has had on our country, and educate the public about those impacts and contributions to our community.

The commission is also directed to provide technical assistance to State, local, and nonprofit groups working to further the commemorations as well as ongoing research on our complicated history.

Madam Speaker, \$1 million was included in the House version of the fiscal year 2020 Department of the Interior appropriations bill to support the commission's work, and that legislation passed the House earlier this year.

I am committed to making sure that these funds are actualized. Thankfully,

there is significant precedent for Federal support for commissions like this.

Additionally, in recognizing the tremendous task before the commissioners and the funding challenges they faced, Senator KAINE and I are also actively exploring ways to extend the work of the commission for several years beyond its present July 2020 termination date.

This part of our Nation's history is far too important to let this opportunity pass. Every American should be afforded the chance to understand and learn from it.

As we gathered at the site of where slavery first arrived on our shores 400 years ago, we reflected on our complicated history; we celebrated the resiliency and many contributions of the descendants of those slaves; and we are committed to following the research and effectively addressing the issues that continue to plague our communities, including, a tax on our voting rights, police brutality, environmental injustice, and disparities in education, housing, wealth, and criminal justice.

So, as we reflect on the events of 1619, let us all commit to constructively address those horrific years of slavery and legal racial discrimination and move forward with the strength, wisdom, and resolve of our ancestors.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from California for convening this Special Order.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for that very powerful statement and, also, for the very hard and diligent work that he has been engaged in around the commission and what he is doing each and every day to educate not only his district, but the entire country with regard to not only the past, but, also, where we must go from here. I thank Chairman SCOTT again.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS). Congresswoman ADAMS serves on the Financial Services Committee and the Committee on Education and Labor. But, also, I always have to say that I know her as an artist, as a professor, but also as a great public servant. I thank the gentlewoman, again, for being with us tonight.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to be here tonight, and I want to thank the gentlewoman from California for not only her wisdom and guidance and for leading this session tonight, but for all of the distinguished work that she has done for so many years.

I also congratulate the chair of the CBC, KAREN BASS, for the leadership that she is providing, as well as the chair of the Committee on Education and Labor, on which I have the privilege of sitting, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT.

I rise today, Madam Speaker, to join my colleagues in recognition of the 400th anniversary of the first recorded forced arrival of enslaved African people in America.

This anniversary marks the beginning of a legacy of oppression and discrimination, the effects of which we still live with today. From those first 19 Africans who reached Jamestown, upwards to 12 million Africans would be kidnapped from their homes and brought to the new world.

Those men and women had almost everything taken from them: their names, their religion, their families, and their freedom. But the one thing that couldn't be taken from them was their spirit.

The culture and customs that they brought to America leave a heritage for us, their descendants, to be proud of, to recognize how far we have come and how far we still have to go.

We know structural racism in our society didn't end in 1865. We know it didn't end in 1965. We know that there are still racial disparities in access to employment and education and healthcare. We know racial bias persists in our criminal justice system, and we know that pay disparities still exist along racial lines.

The shameful legacy of slavery remains, and it is incumbent upon us, the Joshua generation, to keep us moving forward.

One of the first things we can do to keep us on the path to a more equitable future is to have a full reckoning with our past. It is long past time for us, as a society, to have an open and honest conversation about the lasting effects of slavery in America.

My esteemed colleague Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE picked up the torch and introduced H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act, of which I am a proud cosponsor.

We need to have that open national dialogue to come to terms with how we as a nation have not historically lived up to our ideals.

The advocacy of our youth who fight for consideration of this bill is a callback to the fights that made public accommodations open to all races and that made the voting booth open to all as well.

It is a callback to the abolitionists who awakened the public to the horrors of slavery and the Black men who became soldiers to protect and preserve our Union and their freedom.

It is a callback to the 19 Africans who landed in chains on those Virginia shores 400 years ago who never gave up the hope that one day they would once again be free.

□ 2000

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman ADAMS for that very eloquent statement, and also for what she is doing with our young people as the chair of our Historically Black College and University Caucus. What the gentlewoman is doing in terms of pulling us all together on behalf of the education of all of our children is remarkable. And she

is not only teaching us how to teach them, but also leading the way on so many issues as an educator.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), who serves on the Homeland Security Committee and the Transportation Committee.

Congressman PAYNE's whole life has been about addressing the inequities and the vestiges of this last 400 years. But also, he grew up in a household where his dad, our great friend, the late Congressman Don Payne, focused on Africa. His son, Congressman DON PAYNE, Jr., has Africa in his blood as a result of growing up in a household with his wonderful, beloved father.

I thank the gentleman for being here.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, let me first thank the gentlewoman from California for those kind remarks. She has been a consummate fighter for equality for all people across this world, a true humanitarian in her own right, from Oakland, California.

I had the great honor, during the time we celebrated her birthday, to see a picture of her with this Afro that was indicative of the times. It was perfect, and I was not surprised.

But her work in the Congress is second to none, and she has been a true role model for me, a true friend to my father. He always had high accolades for the gentlewoman from California, and now that I am her colleague, I understand why.

Madam Speaker, this year marks what I would call "America's Great Economic Shame."

In 1619, the first boats filled with victims of human bondage reached our shores. When they docked, the very first African Americans walked off a plank and into American history. They would create a dilemma for the leaders and citizens of this new republic that has not been solved to this day.

They were considered unequal in a country where all men were created equal. Their existence would cause otherwise pious and moral men to engage in the most immoral behavior. And they came together to fight for one goal: the belief that one day, someday, they would be free at last.

As we commemorate the 400th anniversary of enslaved Africans reaching this land, America, it is important to discuss how far African Americans have come as a culture and a community and how far we have yet to go.

When I look around this Chamber, I see the results of how far we have come. There are now 55 African Americans in the United States House of Representatives, led by a champion of our commitment to freedom, Congressman JOHN LEWIS.

This representation would have seemed impossible 400 years ago. Back then, African Americans were considered property. Back then, families could be torn apart for a greater economic interest. Back then, African Americans in slave States could be killed for something as simple as learning to read.

We did not ask to be slaves, yet we triumphed in spite of it. We knew they might own our bodies, but they would never control our spirit.

We have succeeded in every area of American life. Let us look at just a few ways that we have altered America for the better.

It is easy to talk about how almost every original American music style comes from our community, everything from jazz to blues to hip-hop, but there are several inventions we use daily that came from African Americans.

We invented America's first clock and then the first automatic elevator doors.

We invented the traffic light.

We invented the clothes dryer and the electric lamp.

We invented the ice cream scoop, the lawnmower, the mailbox, and even the heart pacemaker.

We have triumphed over tragedy, but we still have a way to go.

Right now, local, State, and national politicians are trying to reverse our civil rights. They could work to support us; instead, they want to deny us our vote. That is why we need to stick together and avoid the desire to focus on our differences.

It is important that we remember that it was coming together as a community that helped us survive the horrors of slavery; that it was our commitment to the common ideals of brotherhood, sisterhood, and family that helped us succeed. We need to remember that.

In these times where forces try to tear us apart, it is our common ancestry that can bring us together. It was true 400 years ago, and it is true today.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman PAYNE, first of all, for his kind and gracious words, but, also, for that brilliant presentation reminding us again not only of our history, but how we have risen to be great leaders in our country.

I also want to thank the gentleman for his steady leadership on so many issues, including healthcare, and how he is working to raise the issue of the racial gaps as it relates to people of color, as it relates to diabetes and all of those health indices that we have to close these gaps. I thank him for being here tonight and participating.

Madam Speaker, how much time do I have remaining, please?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California has 35 minutes remaining.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, 400 years ago, as we have heard tonight, the first slave ship arrived in Virginia. This began one of the darkest chapters in American history.

During the course of over 250 years of slavery—that is, government-sanctioned slavery in America—families were ripped apart. People were beaten and brutalized. Men, women, and children were sold and traded like objects. And to this day, Black communities

continue to suffer from the generational trauma from these crimes against humanity.

That was followed by another 75 years of racism and domestic terrorism under Jim Crow and segregation, during which thousands of African Americans were lynched. Churches were bombed. Entire communities were burned to the ground in the not-so-recent, distant past.

Racist economic policies also institutionalized the racial hierarchy established by slavery and kept African Americans trapped and segregated disproportionately in poverty; policies like land seizure laws that left African American farmers at risk of having their land seized and turned over to their White peers; the Fair Labor Standards Act, which excluded professions dominated by African Americans from minimum wage protections; the separate but equal doctrine in schools and public facilities; the segregation of the armed services, in which my dad served in a segregated military, fighting in two wars for our country.

Jim Crow gave way to decades of racist housing policies like redlining and subprime lending that further prevented African Americans from building wealth; followed by the war on drugs, which devastated our communities, tore apart families, and incarcerated millions of needlessly incarcerated fellow African Americans.

Today, we see continued disparities among African Americans due to the legacy of slavery, racism, and Jim Crow in America. African Americans still face disproportionate levels of poverty, unemployment, and overwhelming struggles to achieve educational and economic opportunities.

Health disparities, including the highest rate of HIV infections, continue to impact African American communities due to the lack of equal access and prevention resources. It is completely unacceptable that Black women are four times more likely to die from preventable pregnancy complications than White women.

Now, for decades, our criminal justice system has disproportionately targeted communities of color, especially Black and Brown women and men. Structural and institutional racism permeates every aspect of American society.

And now, sadly, we have a Presidential administration that continues to ignore our Nation's dark history of racism and bondage and, in many ways, is trying to move us backwards. From voter suppression, from targeting African Americans and people of color with budget cuts that undermine and affect their livelihoods to undermining decades of civil rights, the gains that we have made, now we see an administration that is trying to roll those protections back. This President is trying to turn back the clock.

Tragically, we are also now seeing history repeat itself with rampant family separation of immigrant families at

the border, children being taken from their parents and put into cages.

The President has normalized racism and xenophobia. His constant attacks on African Americans and people of color, to questioning the nationality of our first Black President, to claiming that there are good people among white supremacists, his racism has given others permission to hate out loud. It has also set the stage for the toxic mix of racism, gun violence, and domestic terrorism that is gripping our country.

Yes, we have a President today, and an administration, who continues to fan the flames of the fire that was born out of slavery.

So let me be clear, though. We aren't going back. As I our beloved Dr. Maya Angelou said: And still we rise.

And just because we aren't going back doesn't mean we shouldn't look back and learn from our past. That informs what we must do today.

Now, the Akan people of West Africa, they have a mythical symbol. It is a mythical bird. It is a bird called Sankofa. The bird looks back with an egg in her mouth. It means reminding us to look back at our past, to look at the mistakes we have made, to look at what happened in our past that has strengthened us and made us who we are today, and to move forward and to not make those same mistakes but to fly forward, creating a new world based on justice and freedom.

□ 2015

This is our "Sankofa" moment.

Earlier this month we observed the 400th anniversary by travelling to Ghana with a delegation of Members led by House Speaker NANCY PELOSI and Congresswoman KAREN BASS. It was such a privilege and an honor to witness and hear our Speaker speak as the first American Speaker of the United States of America to the Ghanaian Parliament. This strengthens the ties that bind not only between Africans and African Americans, but between the African continent and American continent. People in both of our continents really have a long history that we need to recognize as being oftentimes very difficult but together we must move forward.

So while we were there, we paid our respects at Cape Coast and Elmina Castles. And at the "Door of No Return" we walked through where the first enslaved Africans departed in chains bound for America. The experience was a powerful reminder of the inhumanity of the slave trade, but it was also empowering to witness the strength and determination of the enslaved to survive and to build a better future for the next generation. And we walked back through the "Door of Return," what a glorious moment that was for all Members.

So, today, as we observe 400 years since the first Africans were bought to these shores, let it be known that this is a Sankofa moment.

Moving forward, I look forward to this body addressing the damage caused by the inhumanity of slavery, by advancing positive legislation that uplifts the descendants of those who were enslaved, including H.R. 40 championed by our great warrior, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, whose steadfast and brilliant work is educating the Congress and the public as to why we need a commission to look these past inequities, bring them current, and how we begin to address them in 2019.

Let me close by reading a quote from Nikole Hannah-Jones. She is the author of the 1619 Project. "The 1619 Project aims to reframe the country's history, understanding 1619 as our true founding and placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans at the very center of the story we tell ourselves about who we are."

In Hannah-Jones' seminal piece in the New York Times she wrote: "Our Declaration of Independence, signed on July 4, 1776, proclaims that 'all men are created equal' and 'endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights.' But the white men who drafted those words did not believe them to be true for the hundreds of thousands of Black people in their midst. 'Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness' did not apply fully to one-fifth of the country. Yet despite being violently denied the freedom and justice promised to all, Black Americans believed fervently in the American creed. Through centuries of Black resistance and protest, we have helped the country to live up to its founding ideals." She said, "Without the idealistic, strenuous, and patriotic efforts of Black Americans, our democracy today would most likely look very different—it might not be a democracy at all."

Madam Chair, I have this here, and I want to read a couple of things from NETWORK, who are our Catholic sisters who are fighting for justice, because I think this lays it out very clearly in terms of the progression of where we have been and where we are today through some of the laws that were passed.

So the NETWORK Catholic sisters laid out the first policy: Slave codes, 1613 to 1860.

Policy 2: Andrew Johnson's land policies and sharecropping, 1865 to 1880.

Policy 3: Land seizures, 1865 to 1960. During the sixties it was repealed.

The National Housing Act of 1934. This policy, mind you, guaranteed loans to white people and legally refused loans to Black people. That was 1934. That was enacted in 1934.

The Social Security Act, 1935 to present. Black people were twice as likely to experience hunger or poverty during the Great Depression. And 65 percent of Black people were ineligible to receive this income support.

The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. The GI Bill of 1944.

The Separate but Equal Doctrine, 1954 really to present day.

Policy 9: Subprime loans, 1970s to present day.

Policy 10: The War on Drugs, 1971 to present day.

I really appreciate the sisters and the nuns for laying this out, because it shows us the institutional policies, the laws that were put in place that have created this new form of slavery. And this is a very powerful document. I hope that everyone has a chance to read this. I include in the RECORD this document.

[From the Network: Advocates for Justice, Inspired by Catholic Sisters]

THE RACIAL WEALTH AND INCOME GAP

POLICY 1: SLAVE CODES, THE FUGITIVE SLAVE ACT, AND AMERICAN CHATTEL SLAVERY (1613–1860)

The slave codes created “servitude for natural life” for African laborers. 250+ years slave labor of millions of African and Black people was the foundation of the American economy and global force that it eventually became. On the eve of the Civil War, Black slaves were valued at an estimated \$3.6 billion (not scaled for modern inflation), and none of the Black slaves were able to cash in on that value.

POLICY 2: ANDREW JOHNSON’S LAND POLICIES AND SHARECROPPING (1865–1880)

After the Civil War, 4 million Black people largely resorted to renting the farm land of their previous master in exchange for a “share” of their crop. This system of “sharecropping” tied farmers to their former master because they were legally obligated to buy and sell from them.

POLICY 3: LAND SEIZURES (1865–1960S)

Black people were legally at risk of having their land seized from 1865 to the 1960’s, due in part to the sharecropping debt that many Black farmers found themselves in. White landowners could arbitrarily declare that Black farmers or business owners were in debt at any time and seize their land.

POLICY 4: THE NATIONAL HOUSING ACT OF 1934

This policy guaranteed loans to White people and legally refused loans to Black people and anyone living near Black neighborhoods. This policy also resulted in Black people paying sometimes double or triple the amount to buy a contract from a white person to pay mortgage on a house that legally wasn’t in their name. Meanwhile, Black people were making payments to secure their chances of being able to own their home, while still not receiving any equity on the payments toward that home.

POLICY 5: THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT (1935–PRESENT)

Black people were twice as likely to experience hunger or poverty during The Great Depression, and sixty-five percent of Black people were ineligible to receive this income support. This was designed in such a way that excluded farmworkers and domestic workers—who were predominantly Black—from receiving “old-age” and “unemployment” insurance. To this day, farmworkers and domestic workers are excluded.

POLICY 6: THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT OF 1938

This was enacted to help lift the economy out of the Great Depression but excluded a number of tip-based professions predominantly held by Black workers from the first minimum-wage protections. Even though the Black unemployment and poverty rates were twice that of White people during the Great Depression, the very policies meant to alleviate economic strain were often withheld from the Black community, making it harder to build wealth in the future.

POLICY 7: THE G.I. BILL OF 1944

This was enacted to help World War II veterans adjust to civilian life by providing low-cost home mortgages, low-interest business loans, tuition assistance, and unemployment compensation. Most of the benefits distributed were unavailable to Black service members.

POLICY 8: SEPARATE BUT EQUAL DOCTRINE (1954 TO PRESENT DAY)

Despite the Separate but Equal Doctrine being overturned in 1954, American schools are more racially segregated today than they have been in the past four decades, since Black students are seven times more likely to live in areas of concentrated poverty, and attend underfunded, understaffed, and overcrowded schools.

POLICY 9: SUBPRIME LOANS (1970S TO PRESENT DAY)

Starting in the 1970’s and continuing today, the private sector issued subprime loans almost exclusively to Black families, regardless of income, good credit, or financial history. As a result, Black families continued to unfairly pay more money for homes of the same value as their White counterparts, causing rates of foreclosure among Black families to increase.

POLICY 10: THE WAR ON DRUGS (1971 TO PRESENT DAY)

The War on Drugs exacerbated the racial wealth gap with practices that inherently targeted Black and brown communities. Although rates of drug use and selling are similar across racial lines, Black men are up to 10 times as likely to be stopped, searched, arrested, prosecuted, convicted and incarcerated for drug law violations than White.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, finally, let me just close by thanking Congresswoman KAREN BASS, once again, for keeping the motherland of millions of Americans in the forefront of our foreign policy, for the Congressional Black Caucus for recognizing the solemnness of this moment, the importance of this moment and recognizing that African Americans after 400 years are continuing to fight for justice and for freedom and for a more perfect union for all Americans.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition and commemoration of the first enslaved Africans who arrived in the United States 400 years ago. In 1619, the first recorded year of African slaves arriving in the land we now call the United States of America, did not know of our future. Our blood lines have continued in this country since that time. Our history in this country began 400 years ago when the first captured and kidnapped Africans were put on a boat from the Kingdom of Ndongo in Angola and landed in North America.

The African slaves who first landed in English North America didn’t know that a whole new classification of black people, African Americans, would develop into strong advocates of equality, justice and freedom for people of all nations around the world. They didn’t know about Martin nor Malcolm; Mahalia nor Michelle; all they knew is that they had to survive. They knew they had to live to fight another day. And here we are still helping to build this great nation, today.

While those first 20 survived, millions of captured, kidnapped, and enslaved Africans did not, they drowned in horrible deaths in the Atlantic Ocean. This period of middle passage was devastating for African people. Those who survived were traumatized by the deadly voyage to a land of slavery, the opposite of freedom. Here in this magnificent Capitol, built by slaves, in this great city, built by slaves, in this great nation, built by slaves, we stand stronger than ever before.

To those who came before us, I honor your sacrifice and continue your fight for freedom. 400 years later, the fight for survival and freedom continues.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague, Congresswoman Barbara Lee for anchoring this Special Order recognizing the 400th anniversary of the first slave arriving in America.

Four hundred years ago the first slave arrived in America, ships set sail from the west coast of Africa and in the process, began one of mankind’s most inhumane practices: human bondage and slavery.

For two centuries, human beings—full of hopes and fears, dreams and concerns, ambition and anguish—were transported onto ships like chattel, and the lives of many forever changed.

The reverberations from this horrific series of acts—a transatlantic slave trade that touched the shores of a colony that came to be known as America, and later a democratic republic known as the United States of America—are unknown and worthy of exploration.

Approximately 4,000,000 Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and colonies that became the United States from 1619 to 1865.

The institution of slavery was constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned by the Government of the United States from 1789 through 1865.

American Slavery is our country’s original sin and its existence at the birth of our nation is a permanent scar on our country’s founding documents, and on the venerated authors of those documents, and it is a legacy that continued well into the last century.

While it is nearly impossible to determine how the lives touched by slavery could have flourished in the absence of bondage, we have certain datum that permits us to examine how a subset of Americans—African Americans—have been affected by the callousness of involuntary servitude.

We know that in almost every segment of society—education, healthcare, jobs and wealth—the inequities that persist in America are more acutely and disproportionately felt in Black America.

This historic discrimination continues: African-Americans continue to suffer debilitating economic, educational, and health hardships including but not limited to having nearly 1,000,000 black people incarcerated; an unemployment rate more than twice the current white unemployment rate; and an average of less than 1/16 of the wealth of white families, a disparity which has worsened, not improved over time.

A closer look at the statistics reveals the stark disparity in these areas.

Black household wealth is less than one fifth of the national average.

The median black household had a net worth of just \$17,600 in 2016. Yet in that same year, the median white household held

\$171,000 in wealth while the national household median was \$97,300.

The black unemployment rate is 6.6 percent, more than double the national unemployment rate.

Approximately 31 percent children live in poverty, compared to 11 percent of white children. The national average is 18 percent which suggests that the percentage of black children living in poverty is more than 150 percent the national average.

In the healthcare domain, the disparities suffered by African Americans is also troubling.

Over 26 percent of African Americans do not have health insurance, compared to a national average between 8.8 percent and 9.1 percent.

One in four African American women are uninsured.

Compared to national average, African American adults are 20 percent more likely to suffer from asthma and three times more likely to die from it.

Black adults are 72 percent more likely to suffer from diabetes than average.

Black women are four times more likely to die from pregnancy related causes, such as embolisms, and pregnancy-related hypertension, than any other racial group.

In our nation, among children aged 19–35 months, black children were vaccinated at rates lower than white children: 68 percent versus 78 percent respectively.

Education has often been called the key to unlocking social mobility.

African American students are less likely than white students to have access to college-ready courses.

In fact, in 2011–12, only 57 percent of black students have access to a full range of math and science courses necessary for college readiness, compared to with 81 percent of Asian American students and 71 percent of white students.

Black students spend less time in the classroom due to discipline, which further hinders their access to a quality education.

Black students are nearly two times as likely to be suspended without educational services as white students.

Black students are also 3.8 times as likely to receive one or more out-of-school suspensions as white students.

In addition, black children represent 19 percent of the nation's pre-school population, yet 47 percent of those receiving more than one out-of-school suspension.

School districts with the most students of color, on average, receive 15 percent less per student in state and local funding than the whitest districts.

And, of course, we cannot consider the disparities between black and white in America without considering the intersection of African Americans and the Criminal Justice system.

There are more Black men in bondage today who are incarcerated or under correctional control, than there were black men who were enslaved in the 1800s.

The United States locks up African American males at a rate 5.8 times higher than the most openly racist country in the world ever did:

South Africa under apartheid (1993), African American males: 851 per 100,000

United States (2006), African American males: 4,789 per 100,000

Incarceration is not an equal opportunity punishment. For example, incarceration rates in the United States by race were:

African Americans: 2,468 per 100,000

Latinos: 1,038 per 100,000

Whites: 409 per 100,000

African American offenders receive sentences that are 10 percent longer than white offenders for the same crimes and are 21 percent more likely to receive mandatory-minimum sentences than white defendants according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

Looking at males aged 25–29 and by race, you can see what is going on even clearer:

For White males ages 25–29: 1,685 per 100,000;

For Latino males ages 25–29: 3,912 per 100,000;

For African American males ages 25–29: 11,695 per 100,000. (That's 11.7 percent of Black men in their late 20s.)

Overall, one in 50 murders is ruled justified—but when the killer is white and the victim is a black man, the figure climbs to one in six.

A handgun homicide is nine times more likely to be found justified when the killer is white and the victim is a black man.

Hand gun killings with a white shooter and a black male victim exhibit an even more dramatic bias: one in four is found justified.

But then again, we knew these inequities existed I because for many Black Americans, these disparities are just a part of daily life.

This is why, in 1989, my predecessor as the most senior African American on this September Judiciary Committee, the honorable John Conyers, a past Chairman of this Committee introduced H.R. 40, legislation that would establish a commission to study and develop proposals attendant to reparations.

Though many thought it a lost cause, John Conyers believed that a day would come when our nation would need to account for the brutal mistreatment of African-Americans during chattel slavery, Jim Crow segregation and the enduring structural racism endemic to our society.

I would like to take this moment to personally thank the estimable John Conyers for his work on this legislation for the last thirty years.

With the rise and normalization of white supremacist expression during the Trump administration, the discussion of H.R. 40 and the concept of restorative justice have gained more urgency, garnering the attention of mainstream commentator, and illustrating the need for a national reckoning.

H.R. 40 is intended to create the framework for a national discussion on the enduring impact of slavery and its complex legacy to begin that necessary process of atonement.

The designation of this legislation as H.R. 40 is intended to memorialize the promise made by General William T. Sherman, in his 1865 Special Field Order No. 15, to redistribute 400,000 acres of formerly Confederate owned coastal land in South Carolina and Florida, subdivided into 40 acre plots.

Since its introduction, H.R. 40 has acted to spur some governmental acknowledgement of the sin of slavery, but most often the response has taken the form of an apology.

However, even the well intentioned commitments to to examine the historical and modern day implications of slavery by the Clinton administration fell short of the mark and failed to inspire substantive public discourse.

Since my reintroduction of H.R. 40 at the beginning of this Congress, both the legislation and concept of reparations have become the focus of national debate.

For many, it is apparent that the success of the Obama administration has unleashed a backlash of racism and intolerance that is an echo of America's dark past which has yet to be exorcised from the national consciousness.

Commentators have turned to H.R. 40 as a response to formally begin the process of analyzing, confronting and atoning for these dark chapters of American history.

Even conservative voices, like that of New York Times columnist David Brooks, are starting to give the reparations cause the hearing it deserves, observing that "Reparations are a drastic policy and hard to execute, but the very act of talking and designing them heals a wound and opens a new story."

Similarly, a majority of the Democratic presidential contenders have turned to H.R. 40 as a tool for reconciliation, with 17 cosponsoring or claiming they would sign the bill into law if elected.

Though critics have argued that the idea of reparations is unworkable politically or financially, their focus on money misses the point of the H.R. 40 commission's mandate.

The goal of these historical investigations is to bring American society to a new reckoning with how our past affects the current conditions of African-Americans and to make America a better place by helping the truly disadvantaged.

Consequently, the reparations movement does not focus on payments to individuals, but to remedies that can be created in as many forms necessary to equitably address the many kinds of injuries sustained from chattel slavery and its continuing vestiges.

To merely focus on finance is an empty gesture and betrays a lack of understanding of the depth of the unaddressed moral issues that continue to haunt this nation.

While it might be convenient to assume that we can address the current divisive racial and political climate in our nation through race neutral means, experience shows that we have not escaped our history.

By passing H.R. 40, Congress can start a movement toward the national reckoning we need to bridge racial divides.

Reparations are ultimately about respect and reconciliation—and the hope that one day, all Americans can walk together toward a more just future.

We owe it to those who were ripped from their homes those many years ago an ocean away; we owe it to the millions of Americans—yes they were Americans—who were born into bondage, knew a life of servitude, and died anonymous deaths, as prisoners of this system.

We owe it to the millions of descendants of these slaves, for they are the heirs to a society of inequities and indignities that naturally filled the vacuum after slavery was formally abolished 154 years ago.

And let me end as I began, noting that this year is the 400th commemoration of the 1619 arrival of the first captive Africans in English North America, at Point Comfort, Virginia.

Let us proceed with the cause of this morning with a full heart, with the knowledge that this work will take time and trust.

Let us also do with the spirit of reconciliation and understanding that this bill represents.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to help address the harm that slavery has had on our nation by supporting H.R. 40.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

REVISION TO THE AGGREGATES, ALLOCATIONS, AND OTHER BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, September 9, 2019.

MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 (BBA of 2019), Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (CBA), Balanced Budget and Deficit Control Act of 1985 (BBEDCA), and H. Res. 293 (116th Congress), I hereby submit for printing in the Congressional Record a revision to the aggregates and allocations set forth in the Statement of Aggregates, Allocations, and Other Budgetary Levels for Fiscal Year 2020 published in the Congressional Record on May 3, 2019, as adjusted.

In accordance with these Acts and House Resolution, this revision includes an allowable adjustment for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b) of BBEDCA as contained in the text of H.R. 3931, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2020, as reported by the Committee on Appropriations. Additionally, several adjustments have been made pursuant to, and to conform with, the BBA of 2019: (1) a revision for discretionary spending limits pursuant to section 101(a) of such Act; (2) a revision for additional amounts provided for Overseas Contingency Operations pursuant to section 101(b) of such Act; (3) a revision to a previous Census adjustment pursuant to section 101(c) of such Act; and (4) a revision to a previous adjustment for program integrity initiatives to conform with the BBA of 2019, which does not provide for additional program integrity activities beyond current law.

Accordingly, I am revising aggregate spending levels for fiscal year 2020 and the allocation for the House Committee on Appropriations for fiscal year 2020. For purposes of enforcing titles III and IV of the CBA and other budgetary enforcement provisions, the revised aggregates and allocation are to be considered as aggregates and allocations included in the budget resolution, pursuant to the Statement published in the Congressional Record on May 3, 2019, as adjusted.

Questions may be directed to Jennifer Wheelock or Raquel Spencer of the Budget Committee staff.

JOHN YARMUTH.

TABLE 1.—REVISION TO ON-BUDGET AGGREGATES
[On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars]

	2020	2020–2029
Current Aggregates:		
Budget Authority	3,798,577	n.a.
Outlays	3,726,329	n.a.
Revenues	2,740,533	34,847,515
Revision for the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2020 (H.R. 3931):		
Budget Authority	14,075	n.a.
Outlays	704	n.a.
Revenues	—	—
Revisions for the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 (P.L. 116–37):		
Budget Authority	–9,918	n.a.
Outlays	–5,488	n.a.
Revenues	—	—
Revised Aggregates:		
Budget Authority	3,802,734	n.a.
Outlays	3,721,545	n.a.
Revenues	2,740,533	34,847,515

n.a. = Not applicable because annual appropriations for fiscal years 2021 through 2029 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.
 1 This amount contains several adjustments: an adjustment for discretionary spending limits; an adjustment for additional amounts provided for Overseas Contingency operations; and revisions to previous adjustments for the Census and for program integrity activities.

TABLE 2.—REVISED ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

[In millions of dollars]

	2020
Current Discretionary Action:	
BA	1,384,010
OT	1,410,812
Revision for Disaster Relief (H.R. 3931):	
BA	14,075
OT	704
Revision for discretionary spending limits in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 (P.L. 116–37):	
BA	–7,018
OT	–2,935
Revision for OCO amounts in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 (P.L. 116–37):	
BA	2,500
OT	1,385
Revision for the Census Adjustment in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 (P.L. 116–37):	
BA	–5,000
OT	–3,600
Revision for Program Integrity ¹ (P.L. 116–37):	
BA	–400
OT	–338
Revised Allocation:	
BA	1,388,167
OT	1,406,028
Current Law Mandatory:	
BA	1,075,820
OT	1,067,358

¹ The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 does not provide for additional program integrity funds beyond current law. This amount was previously provided under authority contained in H. Res. 293.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 1420, the Energy Efficient Government Technology Act, would have no significant effect on direct spending or revenues, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1988. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Oxirane, 2-methyl-, Polymer With Oxirane, Monoundecyl Ether, Branched and Linear; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0093; FRL-9996-95] received August 23, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1989. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Sedaxane; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0526; FRL-9998-22] received August 23, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1990. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Emamectin Benzoate; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0088; FRL-9997-10] received August 23, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1991. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Nitrpyrin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0095; FRL-9996-85] received August 23, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1992. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Buprofezin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0161; FRL-9997-41] received August 23, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1993. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; Imperial County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2019-0005; FRL-9996-59-Region 9] received August 23, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1994. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference [GA 2018; FRL-9997-86-Region 4] received August 23, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1995. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Revisions; California; Technical Amendments [EPA-R09-OAR-2018-0133; FRL-9990-48-Region 9] received August 23, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1996. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; AK; Adoption Updates and Permitting Rule Revisions [EPA-R10-OAR-2018-0809; FRL-9998-71-Region 10] received August 23, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1997. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; New Mexico; Approval of Revised Statutes; Error Correction [EPA-R06-OAR-2015-0850; FRL-9998-05-Region 6] received August 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1998. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Redesignation of the Columbus, Ohio Area to Attainment of the 2015 Ozone Standard [EPA-R05-OAR-2019-0239; FRL-9998-50-Region 5] received August 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.